

**OBJECT-DRIVEN NETWORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ENABLING
DYNAMICALLY DEFINABLE MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOR**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to a system and method in which management behavior within a network management system is represented as objects to allow for such management behavior to be dynamically defined. Management behavior may be dynamically created and/or modified by a user in various embodiments. Objects are used to represent management behavior, such as behavior associated with trap management and/or polling management. Such objects may be dynamically defined by a user and activated with the management system during system run-time, without requiring that the system be shut down to implement behavioral changes. The management system may be implemented with gateways distributed from a central management processor. Upon behavior objects being defined by a user, the system may determine appropriate gateways to receive the objects and autonomously communicate the objects thereto. Gateways may execute software that operates in accordance with behavior objects stored local thereto to manage network elements.